STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Madam, with your permission, I rise to announce that the Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 15th December, 2003 will consist of:-

Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's order paper;

Discussion on the Statutory Resolutions seeking disapproval of the following Ordinances and consideration and passing of the Bills seeking to replace these Ordinances, as passed by Lok Sabha:-

The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003;

The Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003;

The Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003;

Discussion on the Statutory Resolutions seeking disapproval of the following Ordinances and consideration and passing of the Bills seeking to replace these Ordinances, after they have been passed by Lok Sabha:-

The National Tax Tribunal Ordinance, 2003;

The Prevention of Terrorism (Amendment) Ordinances, 2003;

The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003;

Consideration and return of the Appropriation (No.5) Bill, 2003 after it has been passed by Lok Sabha;

Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Lok Sabha:-

The Industrial Development Bank (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Bill, 2003;

The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Repeal Bill, 2003;

Consideration and passing of the following Bills, after they have been passed by Lok Sabha:-

The Special Tribunals (Supplementary Provisions) Repeal Bill, 2003;

The Petroleum Regulatory Board Bill, 2002;

The Constitution (Ninety-seventh Amendment) Bill, 2003; and

Discussion on the National Population Policy, 2000.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Remarks made by a Minister against top leadership of the Congress Party.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Sahib, do you want to say something?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Madam, yesterday, before the House was adjourned for the day, some very unpleasant incident took place in the House. A Minister of the Government made some baseless charges against the top leadership of the Congress Party and, naturally, our party was very much exercised about that. The Minister was asked to substantiate them. He has not done that. I understand that you said that you would look into the record and expunge the remarks. But, Madam, what happened yesterday is something which cannot be left at that level. Some most obnoxious remarks were made about the top leadership of the Congress Party, our involvement in the so-called Jogi affair and then this was followed by some of the most obnoxious sloganeering against the leadership of the Congress Party. This is certainly not something which adds to the decorum of the House or facilitates the orderly conduct of the business of the House which we all want. It is in that context that we appealed to the hon. Chairman this morning that some ways should be found and some amends should be made on behalf of the Treasury Benches for what happened yesterday. We would like to know from you what is the status of that request which we made to the hon. Chairman this morning.

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ (Uttar Pradesh) : Madam, I want to raise a point.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes.